



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

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From the Ambassador's Desk | A Bi-Monthly Update from the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon



MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR KATZ

We have dedicated much of this newsletter to the tenth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks – a tragic and horrific day, but one where the world stood united. Together we mourned the deaths of nearly 3,000 innocent civilians, citizens of over 90 countries. Americans will never forget how people in every corner of the world joined us in solidarity, holding candlelight vigils and offering prayers. Each September 11th is a day when we all come together to honor all victims of terrorism in every nation around the world and to look with solidarity and resilience towards the future. I have been touched by the many gestures of kindness and solidarity from so many of our Portuguese friends and counterparts. On behalf of the American people, I thank you for your friendship. While we honor the past and remember the victims, we also celebrate the common ties that bind us. As always, we welcome your [comments](#).



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THE PARTNERSHIPS WE NEED – BY PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

On this 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we remember that 9/11 was not only an attack on the United States, it was an attack on the world and on the humanity and hopes that we share.

We remember that among the nearly 3,000 innocent people lost that day were hundreds of citizens from more than 90 nations. They were men and women, young and old, of many races and faiths. On this solemn anniversary, we join with their families and nations in honoring their memory.

We remember with gratitude how ten years ago the world came together as one. Around the globe, entire cities came to a standstill for moments of silence. People offered their prayers in churches, mosques, synagogues and other places of worship. And those of us in the United States will never forget how people in every corner of the world stood with us in solidarity in candlelight vigils and among the seas of flowers placed at our embassies.

We remember that in the weeks after 9/11, we acted as an international community. As part of a broad coalition, we drove al Qaeda from its training camps in Afghanistan, toppled the Taliban, and gave the Afghan people a chance to live free from terror. However, the years that followed were difficult and the spirit of global partnership we felt after 9/11 frayed.

As President, I've worked to renew the global cooperation we need to meet the full breadth of global challenges that we face. Through a new era of engagement, we've forged partnerships with nations and peoples based on mutual interest and mutual respect.

As an international community, we have shown that terrorists are no match for the strength and resilience of our citizens. I've made it clear that the United States is not and never will be at war with Islam. Rather, with allies and partners we are united against al



Qaeda, which has attacked dozens of countries and killed tens of thousands of innocent men, women and children—the vast majority of them Muslims. This week, we remember all the victims of al Qaeda and the courage and resilience with which their families and fellow citizens have persevered, from the Middle East to Europe, from Africa to Asia.

Working together, we have disrupted al Qaeda plots, eliminated Osama bin Laden and much of his leadership, and put al Qaeda on the path to defeat. Meanwhile, people across the Middle East and North Africa are showing that the surest path to justice and dignity is the moral force of nonviolence, not mindless terrorism and violence. It is clear that violent extremists are being left behind and that the future belongs to those who want to build, not destroy.

To nations and people seeking a future of peace and prosperity—you have a partner in the United States. For even as we confront economic challenges at home, the United States will continue to play a unique leadership role in the world. As we remove the rest of our troops from Iraq and transfer responsibility in Afghanistan, we will support Iraqis and Afghans in their efforts to deliver security and opportunity for their people. In the Arab world and beyond, we will stand up for the dignity and universal rights of all human beings.

Around the world, we will continue the hard work of pursuing peace, promoting the development that lifts people from poverty, and advancing the food security, health and good governance that unleashes the potential of citizens and societies.

At the same time, we have recommitted ourselves to living our values at home. As a nation of immigrants, the United States welcomes people from every country and culture. These newest Americans—like all the innocent victims we lost ten years ago—remind us that despite any differences of race or ethnicity, background or belief, we are all bound together by the common hope that we can make the world a better place for this and future generations. That must be the legacy of those we have lost.

Those who attacked us on 9/11 wanted to drive a wedge between the United States and the world. They failed. On this 10th anniversary, we are united with our friends and partners in remembering all those we have lost in this struggle. In their memory, we reaffirm the spirit of partnership and mutual respect that we need to realize a world where all people live in dignity, freedom and peace.

President Barack Obama

This text was originally published in Expresso, on Saturday, September 10, 2011.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EMBASSY TRANSITIONS

The exhibition, "Transitions: Honoring the Past, Moving Ahead" was inaugurated on September 11, 2011 by American Ambassador Allan Katz, the President of the Luso American Foundation, Maria de Lurdes Rodrigues, and the Administrator of the Fundação Arzpad-Szenes – Vieira da Silva, Luis dos Santos Ferro. Featuring the works from FLAD's collection of both American and Portuguese artists, "Transitions: Honoring the Past Moving Ahead" encourages the viewer to remember the victims of terrorism, while not losing sight of hopeful future in which individuals, communities and nations have shown that they are stronger than fear. Among the special guests attending the exhibition opening were Foreign Minister Paulo Portas, Minister of Economy Álvaro Pereira and former Portuguese Ambassador to the UN António Monteiro, as well as many representatives from the political, economic and cultural areas. The exhibition is open to the public from September 12 – November 13, 2011.

[Learn more about the exhibition](#)



Ambassador Allan J. Katz, President of FLAD Maria de Lurdes Rodrigues, Foreign Minister Paulo Portas and Administrator of the Arzpad Szenes – Vieira da Silva Foundation Luis dos Santos Ferro

DAMAIA FILM MAKING PROJECT

The U.S. Embassy partnered with the Portuguese Non-Governmental Organization, Associação Máquina do Mundo to promote the Damaia Film Making Project. The workshop took place from August 22 to September 2, and was conducted by the American filmmaker and trainer, Jared Katsiane. Damaia youth from 15 to 18 years old used computers and digital video recorders to present their views and capture the essence of the neighborhood. The resulting documentary was exhibited to the public at Venda Nova section of Escola Intercultural and expressed the participants personal insights about the place where they live and the challenges they face.

[See Project Films](#)



Film Subjects

GREEN ENERGY AND ENERGY SECURITY LECTURES

Under the auspices of our American Corners program, from September 26 to 29 the Embassy will bring Professor Alan Krupnick for a lecture series at various Portuguese universities. Alan Krupnick is the Director of the Resources for the Future's Center for Energy Economics and Policy (RFF), as well as Director of Research and a Senior Fellow at RFF. The conferences and lectures will be on a variety of topics including energy security and climate change, focusing on such aspects as: policies for reducing greenhouse gases, oil, natural gas and nuclear issues, energy subsidies, renewable energy portfolio standards, fuel economy standards, and energy efficiencies.

[Learn more about Professor Krupnick](#)



Professor Alan Krupnick